

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended. Reconsideration based on the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that there is no antecedent basis for the recitation in claim 2 of a urine introduction part forming material. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended obviate the objection. The amendments are based on the descriptions at at least page 17, lines 11-12 of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Particularly Point Out and Distinctly Claim the Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended obviate the rejection. The amendments are based on the descriptions of page 11, lines 16-19 of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Guidotti et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,835,192). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the above amendments, below remarks and attached Exhibit, reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Office Action asserts that Guidotti et al. teaches, *inter alia*, "an absorbent ... provided above the first leak preventer extending from a front part of the first leak preventer beneath a second leak preventer." However, Applicants respectfully submit

that the absorbent article of Guidotti does not correspond to the presently claimed combination of features. Specifically, with reference to Fig. 5 of Guidotti, a lower surface of the absorbent article is facing the user during use of the article. This is apparent from the description at col. 7, lines 39-44 of Guidotti, wherein the specification recites "the embodiment in accordance with Fig. 3 comprises two liquid storage regions 2 and 3. It also comprises a liquid-impermeable layer 9 which extends over the forward and rear portions of the article and which, seen from the side that is facing the user during use of the article, is arranged above said liquid storage regions, 2, 3." This is also apparent at col. 7, lines 62-64, wherein the specification recites "the embodiment in Fig. 5 comprises an outer layer 12, which during use of the article is in direct contact with the skin of the user." Thus, this is upside-down in relation to the definitions of "upper" and "lower" in the present application. In other words, when the absorbent article in Fig. 5 of Guidotti is compared with the presently claimed invention, it must be said that the lower side of Fig. 5 corresponds to the upper side of the presently claimed configuration.

Additionally, in the presently claimed combination of features, the absorber is provided "above the first leak preventer extending from a front part of the first leak preventer beneath the second leak preventer." In other words, the absorber is provided "above the first leak preventer extending from the front part to a rear part" and "beneath the second leak preventer." This is apparent from the fact that the second leak preventer is provided "above and in a rear part of the first leak preventer." (See claim 1).

On the contrary, in Fig. 5 of Guidotti, the liquid storage regions 2 and 3 are provided between the liquid-impermeable portions 5 and 6 and liquid-permeable layer 9, respectively.

However, the liquid storage regions 2 and 3 are separated from each other. Thus, in Fig. 5 of Guidotti, there is no member that corresponds to the absorber provided "above the first leak preventer extending from a front part to a rear part" of the presently claimed

invention. Therefore, the indication in the Office Action in relation to Fig. 5 of Guidotti that "an absorbent (3)" is "provided above the first leak preventer extending from a front part of the first leak preventer beneath the second leak preventer" is not correct.

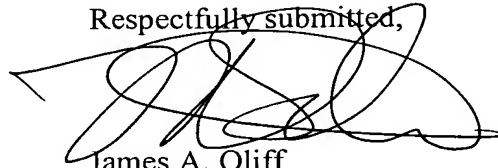
Furthermore, routes of urine in the presently claimed invention and the absorbent article illustrated in Fig. 5 of Guidotti are absolutely different. For example, compare Fig. 5 of Guidotti with the presently claimed configuration. Accordingly, the presently claimed combination of features is distinguishable from the absorbent article illustrated in Fig. 5 of Guidotti. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 are not anticipated or otherwise rendered unpatentable by Guidotti.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LMS/tls

Attachment:
Exhibit

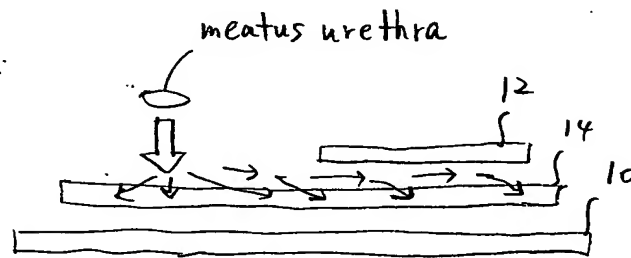
Date: January 29, 2007

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Exhibit

PRESENTLY CLAIMED FEATURES OF PRESENT APPLICATION



Guidotti (FIG. 5)

